

**Blackburn Community Association (BCA)
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Held on Thursday, January 17, 2008**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Al Ross	Rainer Bloess
Tom Scott	Charles Kennedy
Jenn Cloutier	Helen Rosseau
Lynn Leduc	Sarah Cloutier
Evelyn Budd	Paula Rosenquist
Roger Smiley	

Guests: James Ikkers, (Chapel Hill South), Norm Robillard (Kids Sports), Sam Elias (Wally's)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Roger at 7:33 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

In the absence of the Secretary, there were no minutes for approval.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Roger read his annual report which forms part of our application for City funding for much of our programs and activities. I've condensed it for the purpose of these minutes. The full report can be seen on our website.

Aluminum wiring continues to be an issue and despite many inquiries, we are still without straight answers. We will continue these inquiries in 2008.

We distributed our BANAR to the residents of Chapel Hill South in 2007 and now it appears as though they have formed their own association. We will continue to assist them in any way we can and work on projects of mutual interest in 2008.

We have worked on and agreed to a new contract for management of the Community Hall. This project has taken some time as the City needed to ensure all of their concerns were met and that the agreement would line up with those of other associations. The efforts of Jan Whitehouse have been exceptional once again and the BCA is most appreciative of her work. Although delayed for various reasons, a letter will be going to the city in February requesting work start on a proposal to expand the center for extra meeting rooms.

Evelyn Budd and Helen Rosseau are to be congratulated once again for their outstanding efforts in keeping our 2 main communication vehicles (the BANAR and the website) vibrant and relevant. Both are well received and, I believe, essential to maintaining our sense of community.

Tom has taken over managing our outdoor rinks & parks this year and done an excellent job with interfacing with the city and dealing with the park related issues that arise. The rinks are, once again, being administered by Paul Van Bruinessen and – when the weather behaves – are in great shape and being well used

Thanks to Jenn Cloutier and her volunteers for running a very successful Fun Fair this year. Despite serious concerns this event had come to the end of its run, Jenn was able to produce a popular and even profitable event which will guarantee its existence for at least the near future

The winter fun day was also a limited success and we will try this one again this year (again with Jenn's help). Another event we were able to contribute to was the successful fundraiser for Kidsport. I understand this will be held again in 2008.

After some discussion, we will propose changing some of the titles and tasks of the Board and executive in order to better reflect the evolving nature of the community needs.

Again, thanks to all for your efforts this year. The BCA continues to function as a solid organization that supports all the other volunteer organizations in the community. With your work in the areas mentioned above as well as those of environment, schools, seniors and youth, we are able to provide our fellow citizens with representation on all areas that affect the citizens of Blackburn Hamlet.

TREASURER'S REPORT

AI reported that our total assets of \$132,000 with liabilities of \$10,000. As of Dec 31st we have \$22,600 in our bank account. We have money in our budget to increase our community programming activities.

Motion by AI Ross, seconded by Tom Scott; that the honorarium for managing the Community Hall be increased to \$250 per month. motion passed

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS & RINKS

Tom reported that our outdoor rinks have been open, in good condition generally and being well used. Paul Van Bruinessen and his volunteers are doing an exceptional job under difficult conditions and the monitors are in place. The planned painting of the Norman Johnston shack has been completed by the students at NJ school

Tom also reported that the Park Grooming program went very well this past summer and we have received a lot of positive comments. Jordon Davidson did a very good job and showed responsibility by reporting problems to the City, using the 311 number, for which he received prompt action by the City staff.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Paula reported that Barb Sweazey will organize the annual clean-up day on April 19th, with the rain day on the 26th. The Garage Sale will be held on May 3rd.

COMMUNITY HALL

Roger reported that he has worked out most of the problems with the City and their request for more time during spring break and PD days. Jan Quinn is considering using the ND des Champs Community Hall for some of her classes.

COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Rainer reported that in response to numerous recent complaints about blasting at the quarry, Lafarge engaged Explotech to write a report on these recent issues. The report is available from either Rainer or Roger if anyone is interested in reading it. Some suggested a public meeting might be of interest to Blackburn residents. This will be put on the March agenda.

On Feb 21st there will be a public meeting at the Pineview Golf Club on the proposals for the east end Ottawa River crossing. Time to be announced later but will probably be late afternoon and early evening.

FUN FAIR

Jenn reported that this year we will have to rent a stage for the entertainment since the City's stage has been previously booked. She has been in contact with some of the local furniture stores for items for the silent auction. The 50 member Police Pipe Band has been booked for

the parade. She is also going to have a pizza survey for the best Blackburn pizza. Since this is our 40th anniversary of the Funfair

WINTER FUN DAY

The Winter Fun Day will be held on Sat., Feb 16th. The Chili contest is on but neither the sleigh nor the hall is confirmed. Jenn needs help with the games.

FIFTY PLUS

Sarah reported that the Christmas pot-luck supper was well attended and club functions are continuing as planned. Sarah asked if the BCA could pay for the cost of the entertainment at the Christmas dinner.

Moved by Sarah, seconded by Al; that the BCA reimburse the 50+ club \$150 for the entertainment at their Christmas dinner. Motion passed

The aluminum wiring is still a big issue with the 50+ club. It will be on the BCA agenda until a resolution is found.

WEBSITE

Helen reported that the website suffered a crash recently but has been revived successfully. We have received many positive comments on it and it is being used more and more each day.

BANAR

Evelyn reported that the next issue of the BANAR will be delivered the first week of February by the Citizen and the Flyer Force.

CITY REPORT

No report from the City

OTHER BUSINESS

Sam Elias presented an artist sketch of his proposed plans for his property on Innis. It will be built in two phases; the first phase includes the addition of a third floor on the existing building and its conversion to a three storey apartment build with 18 units. The second phase includes the construction of a three-and-a-half floor apartment building containing 24 units. Most units will have 2 bedrooms with some bachelor units. There is no need for rezoning. All parking will be outside. Plans are expected to be delivered to the City by March, and construction will start as soon as financing has been arranged, expected to be in May or June.

Norm Robillard thanked the BCA for their grant for the recent Sports Day event held in Blackburn. Over \$700 was raised for Kids Sports in the Hamlet. He suggested that an Ultimate Frisbee event might be well received by our youth. The BCA said they would support such an event and the Funfair might be a good introduction to this sport. He also suggested that pick-up hockey at noon hour at Emily Carr would be worth exploring. Al mentioned that we have funds to support any such youth event.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Roger proposed some modifications to the formation of the Board.

Moved by Al, seconded by Charles that; the position of Greenbelt, Business, and Civic Affairs Directors be removed from the Board, and new positions including Communications, Social, and Community Affairs Directors be established. Motion passed

Roger proposed the nomination of Charles Kennedy for the position of vice president, seconded by Al, who was then elected by acclamation.

Roger asked Charles to continue the election and appointment of the other officers of the Board.

They include:	Officers:	Roger Smiley	President
		Annick Laporte	Secretary
		Al Ross	Treasurer
		Parks & Recreation	Tom Scott
		Website	Helen Rosseau
		Environment	Caroline Harris MacDonald
		Youth	Norm Robillard
		Education	Paula Rosenquist
		Community Relations	Laura Czekaj

Appointments	Evelyn Budd	BANAR
	Jan Whitehouse	Community Hall
	Fun Fair	Jenn Cloutier

Motion by Sarah, seconded by Rainer, that there being no further nominations, all positions to be declared elected or appointed by acclamation. Motion passed

Roger noted that there are still Membership, Communications and Social Directors to be found.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held Thursday, Feb 21st at 7:30 in the library conference room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 on a motion by Tom, seconded by Charles.